GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3533
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
PAUCITY OF SPACE IN PASSPORT OFFICES
Rana Shri Kashi Ram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport offices in the country particularly the one at Surat are facing the problem of paucity of space;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a), (b) &(c) Passport Office, Surat was opened in 2003 and is located at hired premises since then. The public area of the premises, when purchased, was considered to be sufficient to cater to the passport-seeking public. With substantial increase, over the years, of passport-seekers, the available space has become inadequate. In fact, with growing workload, the same problem has cropped up in most of the other passport offices also. The Ministry has recently purchased a plot of land in Surat and it is proposed to construct our own building with adequate public area. With the implementation of the Passport Seva Project, the Government propose to open 68 Passport Seva Kendras all over the country where applicants will be able to submit their passport application forms in comfortable conditions, with adequate space provided in each case for visitors.